

Idaho Steelhead Seasons, Rules and Information

What Is A Steelhead?

Steelhead are rainbow trout longer than 20 inches in length in the Snake River drainage below Hells Canyon Dam, the Salmon River drainage (excluding lakes and the Pahsimeroi and Lemhi rivers), and the Clearwater River drainage (excluding that portion above Dworshak Dam and lakes). Rainbow trout longer than 20 inches in length with the adipose fin clipped (as evidenced by a healed scar) are defined as steelhead in the Snake River from Hells Canyon Dam upstream to Oxbow Dam, and in the Boise River from its mouth upstream to Barber Dam, and in the Payette River from its mouth upstream to Black Canyon Dam, during steelhead seasons.

Only steelhead with a clipped adipose fin - see page 70 - (as evidenced by a healed scar) may be kept. These are hatchery fish that had their adipose fin removed as juveniles. All steelhead with an intact adipose fin must be released immediately to preserve wild steelhead that are listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act (see page 71). Some hatchery steelhead are not clipped as part of a program to increase the number of natural spawning fish. These steelhead must also be released immediately.

Licenses—Steelhead Permits - Refer to Page 5 for Prices

Anyone, except those expressly exempt, must have a valid fishing license and steelhead permit on his/her person to fish for, reduce to possession, or catch-and-release steelhead.

Any person (except children under the age of 14) who does not qualify as a resident (see page 7) must purchase either a nonresident season fishing license and a full-season steelhead permit or a nonresident 3-day salmon/steelhead license/permit.

Children (including nonresident children) under the age of 14 are exempt from purchasing steelhead permits. They may fish without permits if they are accompanied by a valid permit holder, provided that any fish caught and reduced to possession must be recorded on the permit holder's card and counted in the permit holder's legal bag, possession and season limit. A resident child under 14 may purchase a permit without a license so that he or she may catch his or her own limit of steelhead.

When excess hatchery steelhead become available at fish hatcheries or trap facilities, they may be released in the Snake River between Hells Canyon and Oxbow dams, and in the Payette or Boise rivers to provide additional fishing opportunity. A steelhead permit is required when fishing for hatchery steelhead stocked by IDFG in these waters.

Methods of Take

- No person shall kill or retain in possession any steelhead which has been hooked other than in the mouth or jaw. Any steelhead hooked other than in the mouth or jaw must be released unharmed. See snagging definition on page 10.
- Only barbless hooks may be used when fishing for steelhead in the Salmon and Clearwater river drainages and the Snake River below Hells Canyon Dam. Bending the barb down to the shank of a single, double, or treble hook will meet this requirement.
- Steelhead may be taken with barbed hooks in the Boise and Payette river drainages, and the Snake River between Hells Canyon and Oxbow dams.
- Any angler who has attained the bag, possession or season limit on those waters with steelhead limits, must cease fishing for steelhead including catch-and-release fishing.

PLEASE NOTE

- Steelhead caught in a legal manner must be either released or killed immediately after landing.
- All fish that are hooked, landed, and not immediately released shall be counted in the limits of the person hooking the fish.
- No person shall have in the field or in transit any steelhead from which the head or tail has been removed.
- Any person with a valid fishing license and steelhead permit may fish for steelhead on a catch-and-release basis August 1 through December 31 in any water open to fishing for other species EXCEPT in the Middle and South forks of the Salmon River and their tributaries. All steelhead caught during the no-harvest period shall be released unharmed immediately.

River Location Codes

Snake River

Snake River, downstream from Salmon River	01
Snake River, from Salmon River to Hells Canyon Dam	02
Snake River, Hells Canyon Dam to Oxbow Dam	27

Clearwater River

Clearwater River, downstream from Orofino Bridge	03
Clearwater River, upstream from Orofino Bridge	04
North Fork Clearwater River	05
South Fork Clearwater River	07

STEELHEAD HARVEST SURVEY

Steelhead harvest and angler participation are estimated by a telephone survey conducted within a few weeks after the season closes. You may be called and asked about your effort and success.

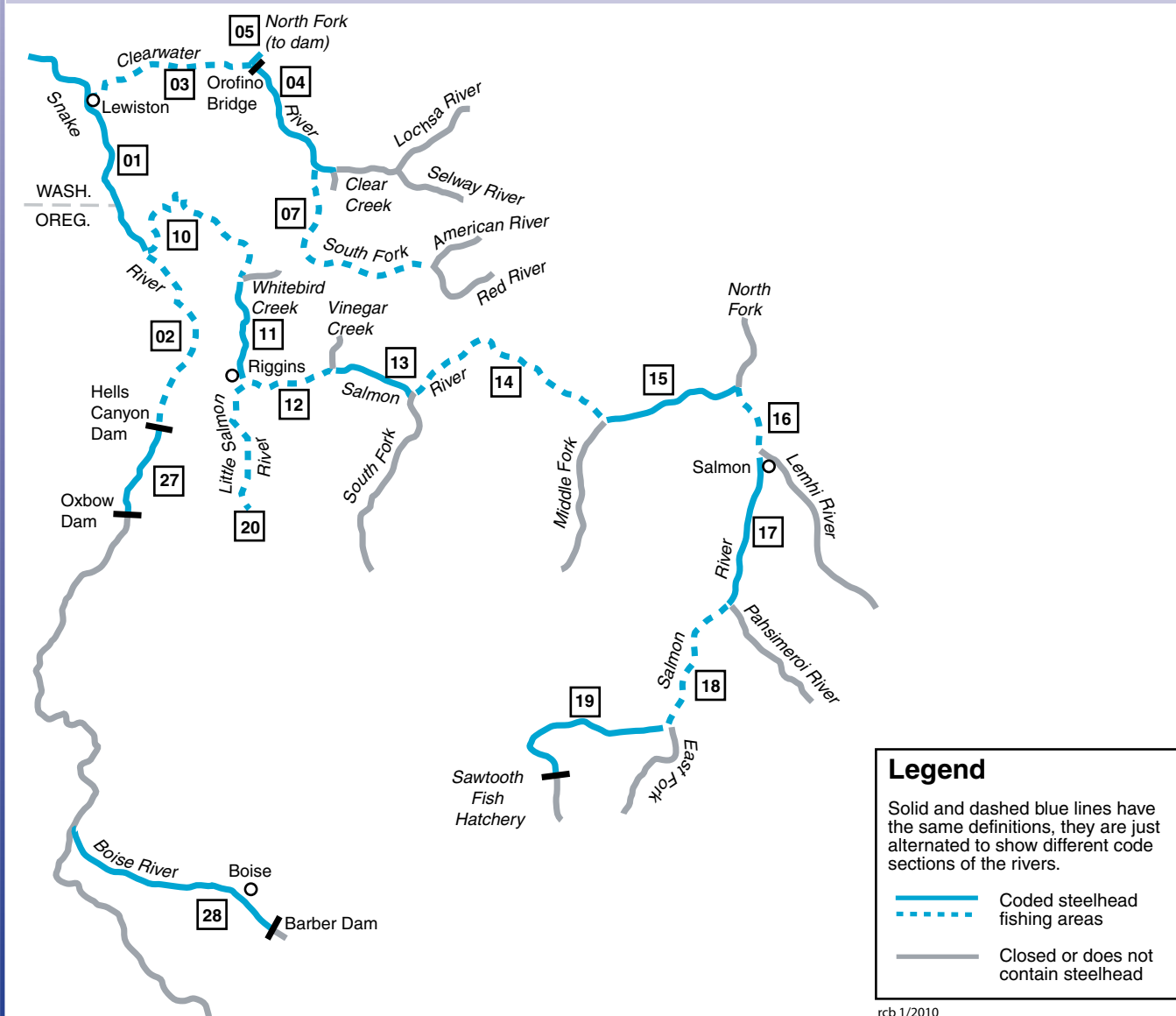
Please save your permit until three months after the season has closed or until you are contacted by IDFG.

Salmon River

Salmon River, downstream from Whitebird Creek	10
Salmon River, Whitebird Creek to Little Salmon	11
Salmon River, Little Salmon to Vinegar Creek	12
Salmon River, Vinegar Creek to South Fork	13
Salmon River, South Fork to Middle Fork	14
Salmon River, Middle Fork to North Fork	15
Salmon River, North Fork to Lemhi River	16
Salmon River, Lemhi River to Pahsimeroi River	17
Salmon River, Pahsimeroi River to East Fork	18
Salmon River, upstream from the East Fork	19

Other

Little Salmon River	20
Boise River	28



Steelhead Rules

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Steelhead Seasons and Limits												
RIVER SECTION	Spring 2010 Season 40 fish per season. Only 20 may be from Clearwater drainage.						Fall 2010 Season 20 fish per season					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
LITTLE SALMON RIVER from its mouth upstream to the U.S. Highway 95 bridge near Smokey Boulder road.	Jan 1 - May 15 5 per day, 15 in possession				Closed to steelhead fishing		Aug 1 - Aug 31 Catch-and-Release	Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 per day, 9 in possession				
SNAKE RIVER from the Washington State line at the confluence of the Snake and Clearwater Rivers upstream to Hells Canyon Dam.	Jan 1 - April 30 5 per day, 15 in possession				Closed to steelhead fishing							
SNAKE RIVER from Hells Canyon Dam to Oxbow Dam, and BOISE RIVER from its mouth upstream to Barber Dam.	Jan 1 - May 31 3 per day, 9 in possession					Not present		Sep 1 - Dec 31 3 per day, 9 in possession				
Adult steelhead are only present in the Boise and Payette rivers and the Snake River above Hells Canyon Dam when stocked by IDFG. Check with regional offices to determine if steelhead have been released that year. A steelhead permit is required to fish for and keep steelhead (rainbow trout longer than 20 inches with a clipped adipose fin). Limits are 3 per day and 9 in possession when steelhead are present. Barbless hooks are not required.												

STEELHEAD FISHING IN BOUNDARY WATERS

Snake River between Idaho and Oregon or Washington: The holder of a valid Idaho fishing license and steelhead permit may fish for steelhead in the Snake River where it forms the boundary between the states of Idaho and Oregon or Washington, subject to the fish and game laws of Idaho, but may not fish from the shoreline, including wading, and may not fish in sloughs or tributaries on the Oregon or Washington side. An Oregon or Washington license holder has the same rights and restrictions with reference to the Idaho side. Any angler who fishes on the Snake River or any other water forming an Idaho boundary is entitled to have in possession only the limit allowed by one license regardless of the number of licenses in possession.



Go Fish!

Show your support for Idaho fishing.
Cutthroat license plates are available for purchase!

WILDLIFE LICENSE PLATES AVAILABLE AT IDAHO ASSESSOR'S OFFICES.

For a list of assessor's offices, check this website:
<http://itd.idaho.gov/dmv/vehicleservices/assessor.htm>

- Each DMV has a supply of plates waiting for you and your vehicle. When you go to renew your registration, just ask for a Wildlife plate. Personalized plates can also be ordered. Fill out the form at any DMV, or find additional information at <http://www.itd.idaho.gov/dmv>
- \$35 helps support Fish & Game nongame programs and wildlife education newsletters for schools.








PERMIT VALIDATION

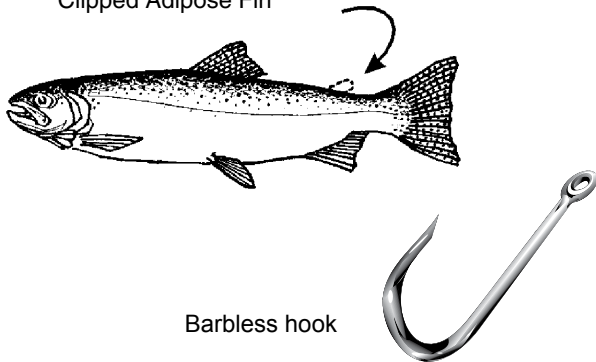
When a steelhead has been hooked, landed, and reduced to possession, the angler hooking the fish must immediately:

1. Completely remove one numbered notch from the permit;
2. Look up the number code from the River Location Code List and write it in the space provided; and
3. Enter the month and day the fish was caught.

However, when a steelhead is released unharmed, as in no-harvest fishing, the angler is not required to make an entry on the permit.

4. A proxy statement is required if a steelhead is reduced to your possession; then gifted to or transported by another individual or party. Please see pages 11 and 41.

Clipped Adipose Fin



STEELHEAD LIMIT CHANGED

The steelhead bag and possession limit for the spring 2010 steelhead season in the Snake, Salmon and Little Salmon rivers has changed as follows:

- ♦ The daily limit is five, no more than three may be 32 or more inches in total length.
- ♦ The possession limit is 15, no more than nine may be 32 or more inches long.

The statewide limit in the spring 2010 season is 40 steelhead, but no more than 20 of those may be caught in the Clearwater River drainage.

The steelhead bag and possession limits have not changed in the Clearwater River drainage and the Boise River for the spring 2010 steelhead season.

Clearwater River

- ♦ The daily limit is three.
- ♦ The possession limit is nine.

Boise River

- ♦ The daily limit is three.
- ♦ The possession limit is nine.

Washington/Idaho Fishing Waters Boundaries

